

A Letter From Knowledge Adventure

Welcome to the **JumpStart Artist™ Parent/Child Activity Guide**. This guide was created by arts educators to supplement and extend the skills and concepts presented in the software. Based on the National Standards for Arts Education and the curriculum in **JumpStart Artist™**, the guide encourages you and your child to explore the media, artists, styles, techniques, and principles of the visual arts.

An arts education is not just about art; it's about culture—the way we communicate, the way we feel, and the way we think. Much of what we know about the people who lived before us comes from the art and artifacts they have left behind. When a child learns to express himself with a paintbrush or lump of clay, he is gaining the potential to influence us, move us, and create a new understanding of who we are and how we live.

For this reason, art has sometimes been referred to as the 4th R after reading, writing, and arithmetic. It should be considered a fundamental area of study. In fact, recent research has shown that an arts education can boost standardized test scores in other academic subjects.

We hope you enjoy **JumpStart Artist™** and these activities. Don't forget to create your own art gallery at home to showcase your work!



Knowledge Adventure
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How to Use This Activity Guide

- Have your child choose activities that interest him.
- Plan a special time each week to work together.
- Provide a safe, comfortable area where you and your child can get messy together.
- Refer to the Arts Standards listed on the first page of this guide. Each activity in the guide lists the standards and concepts used, as well as the approximate grade level of the activity.
- Gather the materials ahead of time and prepare an appropriate workspace.
- Read the complete "Procedure" section to yourself before starting the activity.
- Then read the "Just for Kids" paragraph aloud to your child, and start creating.
- Be encouraging, and allow your child to vary the activity if he so chooses. Experimentation is a creative act.
- Use *JumpStart Artist* and the other resource links to extend learning.

Please Note: These activities were designed for adults and children to do together. Some of the activities involve materials that could be dangerous in the hands of an unsupervised child. A few activities involve visiting museums or artists' studios; children should always be accompanied by an adult in these situations.

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